UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25601
15 April 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to reiterate the position of my Government concerning the efficient protection of the international borders of the Republic of Croatia in the part where they form the boundary of the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs).

It is the strong conviction of my Government that one of the pillars of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) - as it stands today - is the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 769 (1992) and the Secretary-General's report (S/24353 and Add.1). The recommendations set forth in the said report (chap. II.C, "Control of international borders", paras. 19-22) and endorsed by resolution 769 (1992) were never implemented, thus creating major problems both to the Government of Croatia and to UNPROFOR, and allowing for flagrant violations of the sanctions imposed against the country provisionally referred to as the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" by resolution 757 (1992) and subsequent relevant resolutions.

The Government of Croatia has been alerted of the fact that the Secretariat of the United Nations has for the past six months been aware of the pillage of Croatian oil by the Serb insurgents at the Djeletovci oilfield in UNPA Sector E, resulting in damages that run in the vicinity of $50,000 a day, taking into consideration the estimated production from the 31 flowing wells at a rate of about 350 tons/day (2,500 bbl./day); other pumping and gas-lift wells appeared to be idle. The report confirming those facts, and describing the incapacity of UNPROFOR to prevent the incidents, has been submitted to the Chief of the Field Personnel Section, Field Operations Division, United Nations Office of General Services, under the document symbol FOD/DAM/92/022 - Amendment No. 1, on 20 October 1992 by International Subsea Systems, Inc., Houston, Texas.

The aforesaid document reports the findings of an independent expert that was commissioned in order to investigate allegations that the Serbian insurgents are extracting oil from the Croatian oilfield in the UNPA East, and shipping the stolen oil to the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" in violation of resolution 757 (1992); we emphasize that the document shows evidence that the theft is occurring, and that UNPROFOR, due to the "lack of

cooperation by the local Serb authorities in Sector East", is unable to stop the present and prevent the future pillage of Croatian property and violation of sanctions.

It is our belief that this matter has not yet been properly brought to the attention of the Security Council.

At the same time, the situation described is creating numerous problems for the UNPROFOR forces on the ground, which are documented in several communications from the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations sent to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia. Namely, in the letter dated 4 February 1993 (S/AC.27/1993/COMM.755), the Under-Secretary-General informs the Committee that "it should be noted that as a result of the lack of cooperation by the local Serb authorities in Sector East, UNPROFOR so far has not been able to undertake the immigration and customs functions mandated by Security Council resolution 769 (1992); ... as a result, UNPROFOR is not in a position to prevent these apparent violations of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" (emphasis added).

The grave concerns of UNPROFOR in regard to this matter transpire from innumerable observed and registered "tanker trucks crossings" over the unprotected and unguarded international border between the Republic of Croatia and the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" communicated to the Committee in documents S/AC.27/1993/COMM.755 and Adds.1-8. No doubt that considerable amount of oil that is produced daily at the Djeletovci oilfield contributes to the violation of sanctions. Namely, the aforesaid report determined that the daily production of oil would amount to 20 truckloads a day. One has to take into consideration, however, that there is also an underground pipeline connecting the oilfield and the Opatovci tank farm.

We believe that the extraction of oil and its shipment across the international borders of Croatia is a blatant theft of its property and has to cease. We propose that the production of oil be stopped and further prevented; that the facilities on the Djeletovci oilfield be permanently guarded by UNPROFOR personnel; and that the installations remain idle until the conditions permit the return of the legitimate owners - the Croatian oil company "INA".

In accordance with the commitments that the Security Council has reaffirmed in resolution 815 (1993), in particular emphasizing that the UNPAs are "integral parts of the territory of the Republic of Croatia"; having in mind the continuing pillage of Croatian property; concerned with the violations of sanctions imposed by resolution 757 (1992) that are committed from the territory of the Republic of Croatia; it is a firm belief of my Government that the solution lies in full implementation of resolution 769 (1992). We urge the members of the Security Council to consider the position of the Government of Croatia when considering UNPROFOR's mandate in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraph 3 of resolution 815 (1993).

I would ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ambassdor Dr. Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative